30th January 1936]

the Palar basin to be developed by the Government in regard to electrical pumping for agriculture;

(*b*) whether a report has been called for from the Chief Engineer for Electricity on the same; and

(*c*) whether applications from private licensees in the above area have been refused?

A.—(*a*) A representation from Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi, M.L.C., has been received by Government stating that Government themselves should supply electric energy to towns and villages in the *North Arcot district*.

(*b*) The Chief Engineer has been consulted.

(*c*) An application for a licence for a certain area including the Walajapet taluk, which lies in the Palar Basin, is under the consideration of Government.

Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi:—" May I know from the Hon. the Law Member whether besides the representation received from Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi any representation was received from any other Members of this House and if so, what action has been taken thereon? " 11-a.

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" I am not aware of any other hon. Member mentioning it to me, and there is nothing on record showing that any other Member of this House has made a representation."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I ask whether the Hon. the Law Member is aware that the District Board of North Arcot and various municipalities of the district have passed resolutions urging upon the Government the desirability of reserving the right of private distribution to themselves, without giving the right to private licensees? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—My attention has not been drawn to any resolutions that might have been passed by the district board and municipalities. I thought the question referred to the representations made by the Members of this House. That is how I understand the question."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" With reference to the answer to clause (*b*), may I ask whether the Hon. the Law Member will be pleased to lay on the table the opinion of the Chief Engineer? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" I do not think any useful purpose will be served by that. The report is meant for the information of the Government."

Reservation to the Government of the right in the Palar basin to develop and distribute electricity to rural areas.

* 629 *Q*.—Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government propose to reserve the right to distribute rural load to themselves in the Palar basin

[30th January 1936

to ensure supply to agriculturists even in areas where licences have already been granted or are proposed to be granted on the lines of the reservation now adopted in respect of bulk supply to industrialists, railways, etc.?

A.—There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government. The Government are not however precluded from undertaking supply direct to any agriculturist in a licensee's area if necessity for doing so arises. It depends upon the circumstances of each case, such as, the inability or unwillingness of the licensee to give the supply, the extent of the load, the capital to be spent in connecting up the load and the revenue expected.

Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi:—"May I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of undertaking the distribution themselves taking into consideration the fact that private licensees have not taken the initiative to canvass agricultural load?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"That matter will be considered."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"Arising out of the answer given, viz., that 'the Government are not, however, precluded from undertaking supply direct to any agriculturist in a licensee's area if necessity for doing so arises,' may I ask under what conditions Government will come in and undertake the supply direct?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"I think the answer given suggests the conditions. The matter 'depends upon the circumstances of each case, such as, the inability or unwillingness of the licensee to give the supply, the extent of the load, the capital to be spent in connecting up the load and the revenue expected'."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask whether the delays on the part of the private licensees to exploit properly agricultural load in rural areas will be included as one of the reasons for the Government interfering and giving help?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"That would be considered, Sir."

Progress of private licensees for electricity in North Arcot district in regard to agricultural pumping.

* 630 Q.—Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the taluks of the North Arcot district for which applications have been received for licences to distribute electric power;

(b) which of those are agricultural and which industrial;

(c) the names of the applicants for licences and the area for which each has applied;

(d) whether such applicants hold licences already for other areas; and